

The Bishop's Restraint

John Selwyn, who became the Bishop of the South Pacific, was renowned for his boxing skill in his university days.

On a certain occasion, he had to utter grave words of rebuke and warning to a professed convert to Christianity. The man, removed from savagery only by a generation or two, struck the bishop a violent blow on the face with his clenched fist.

All Selwyn did in return was to fold his arms and look into his attacker's face. With his powerful arms and massive fists, he could easily have knocked him down, but instead he waited calmly for another blow. It was too much for his assailant; he was ashamed and fled into the jungle.

Years later, the bishop became seriously ill and had to return home to England. One day, the man who had struck him came to his successor to confess Christ in faith and ask for baptism.

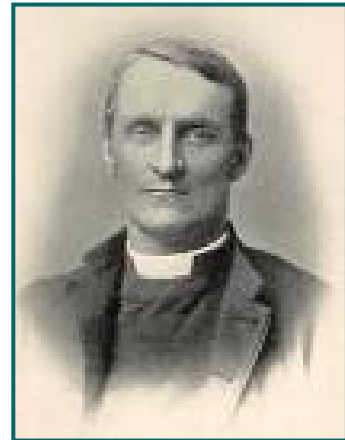
Convinced of the genuineness of his conversion, the new bishop asked what new name he desired to take as a Christian.

"Call me John Selwyn," he replied, "for it was he who taught me what Jesus Christ is like."

The term *Christian* identifies those of us who are followers of Christ as being "Christ-like." We know that we can never be perfect, as He was, free of sin.

But because of His love and grace – his forgiveness when we miss the mark He has set for us – we should be constantly striving to be His ambassadors in this world, and to act as He would.

– Beecher Hunter



Bishop John Selwyn